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PEACE AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Identical letters dated 2 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward herewith a letter dated 2 June 1997 addressed to you by Mr. Abdul Rahim Ghafoorzai, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

I would like to refer to documents S/PV.3765 and S/PV.3765 (Resumption 1) dated 14 and 15 April 1997 and the statement of the President of the Security Council dated 16 April 1997 (S/PRST/1997/20), on the situation in Afghanistan.

I would also like to draw your attention to documents S/1997/54 of 21 January 1997 and S/1997/315 of 15 April 1997, on the matter.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 39, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. A. G. Ravan FARHÂDI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Identical letters dated 2 June 1997 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to bring the following, in reference to the latest military developments in Afghanistan, to your attention and through you to the urgent attention of the Security Council:

1. On the basis of an agreement concluded between the Taliban and the National Islamic Movement of Northern Afghanistan (hereinafter, Junbish) under General Abdul Malek, three northern provinces of Faryab, Jowzjan and Balkh (Mazar-i-Sharif) fell between 19 and 24 May 1997 to the new alliance. The Taliban, typical of their attitude, began breaching terms of the agreement in pursuit of implementing their main agenda, inter alia, armed violence directed at strengthening and consolidating their power structure by disarming Junbish and Hezb-i-Wahdat armed forces. The Taliban also conducted abductions, persecutions and house-to-house searches, confiscating private property such as radios, television sets, audio cassettes, video tapes, children's toys, etc.

2. As you know and as reported by the international news media, upon entering the provinces of Balkh (Mazar-i-Sharif), Jowzjan and Faryab, the Taliban, as in Kabul, Kandahar, Herat and other occupied areas, introduced and sought to implement their self-defined unique version of "Islamic Sharia" by closing girls' schools, banning women from work and imposing many other repressive restrictions dealing with the work status of women. Simultaneously, Pakistani military authorities airlifted around 5,000 militias - in the name of students from religious schools in Pakistan - increasing the number of Taliban men to a total of 10,000, armed with sophisticated weapons, in just three days. Supposedly highly confident, the Government of Pakistan then accorded official recognition to the Taliban rule in Afghanistan and sent an "Ambassador", strangely not to Kabul but to Mazar-i-Sharif.

3. Terrified and disgusted by the tyrannical behaviour of the Taliban, the civilian population of the northern provinces responded with a popular uprising joined by the Junbish, Hezb-i-Wahdat and other members of the Supreme Council for the Defense of Afghanistan (SCDA), in the fight against the Taliban (27 and 28 May 1997). As a result, thousands of Taliban mercenaries, including a number of their top officials, among them their top military commander in the northern provinces, Mullah Abdul Razzaq, their so-called Foreign Minister, Mullah Mohammad Ghaus, their so-called head of the Central Bank, Mullah Ehsanullah, together with the newly dispatched Pakistani so-called Ambassador, Aziz Khan, were taken as prisoners. It was later announced that General Abdul Malek allowed the so-called Pakistani Ambassador, who had claimed that the "broad-based" Government of Afghanistan was already formed, to return to Pakistan. The rest of the captured individuals, however, remain under the custody of the anti-Taliban alliance.

By regaining territories which temporarily came under the Taliban offensive in the provinces of Balkh (Mazar-i-Sharif), Jowzjan, Faryab, Samangan, Takhar

and Kunduz, the Salang Highway, the strategic towns of Jabal-us-Siraj, Gulbahar, Ghorband and Pul-i-Khumri and major parts of Charikar and Bagram, the forces of the SCDA have, by now completed their dismantlement of the Taliban armed occupying units.

Presently, the Islamic State of Afghanistan is administering a major part of the country, controlled by the Supreme Council for the Defense of Afghanistan.

4. I should particularly like to draw your attention, as well as the attention of the Security Council, to the involvement of Pakistani military personnel in the Taliban operations in the north. In addition to many Pakistani nationals captured in the north, so far as many as 68 armed Pakistani nationals, only in and around the town of Jabal-us-Siraj, have fallen prisoner to the forces of the SCDA.

Owing to the increased possibility of serious military reversal, there seems to be a temptation on the part of Pakistani military intelligence circles to intervene more openly in the Afghan conflict in support of the Taliban.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan, referring to Security Council resolution 1076 (1996) of 22 October 1996 and General Assembly resolution 51/195 B of 17 December 1996 - both calling for a halt to the involvement of foreign military personnel in the conflict in Afghanistan - requests the Security Council to keep a closer watch on the ongoing critical developments in Afghanistan and to take due measures to prevent a situation that would cause detrimental consequences to the peace and stability of the entire region.

The presence of Pakistani military personnel and the continued military interventions in the internal affairs of Afghanistan are grave and manifest violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of the recognized principles of international law. This situation deserves the immediate attention of the Security Council and shall be determined in accordance with article 39 of the Charter as an act of aggression.

I would like to quote Christopher Thomas' Times of London article dated 2 June 1997:

> "Like Russia and Britain before it, Pakistan has learnt that meddling in Afghanistan can mean humiliation and, potentially, disaster. The entire northern third of the country is hostile to Islamabad, and the more the northern forces continue their advance into Taliban-controlled territory, the greater will be the destabilizing consequences for Pakistan, already fragile and vulnerable from guns, drugs, corruption, ethnic killings and religious conflict. It is now trapped by a redundant foreign policy under which it recognizes a non-existent Government."

The Islamic State of Afghanistan, in this context, reserves its right to request reparations for damages and compensation for the war-wounded and the loss of lives caused by the continued Pakistani aggression.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan earnestly requests that the Head of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan be assigned to visit and verify

the factual presence of Pakistani prisoners and submit a report to the Security Council. Any delay in this matter may be construed as a lack of interest in defending the rights of a Member State victimized by protracted aggression.

On the diplomatic front, the Government of Pakistan, in an attempt to extinguish the objecting voice denouncing its widely known interventions in the internal affairs of Afghanistan - which have already infuriated many countries - has proposed that the seat of Afghanistan at the United Nations be "vacated" (see S/PV.3765 (Resumption 1), p. 5). The "vacant seat" proposal is an artfully euphemistic wording for the practical expulsion of Afghanistan - a United Nations Member State since 1946, before Pakistan came into existence - desiring to detach it from the world body. No Member State has extended support to this outrageous Pakistani proposal.

5. The Islamic State of Afghanistan, taking into account the current situation in the country, reaffirms the following principles as major components of a peaceful solution to the problem:

(a) The need to put an end to the foreign interventions in the internal affairs of Afghanistan;

(b) The need to observe a nationwide ceasefire and to agree on a phased exchange of prisoners of war;

(c) The need for a negotiated political settlement through a genuine intra-Afghan dialogue and transfer of power;

(d) The need for the formation of a broad-based transitional representative Government, having, inter alia, the following tasks:

(i) To draft the constitution, electoral law and the law on political parties;

(ii) To convene a Grand National Assembly;

(iii) To establish afterwards a transitional Parliament from among the Grand Assembly members;

(iv) To prepare a plan for the collection of arms;

(v) To initiate a plan for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the country as well as for the repatriation of the Afghan refugees.

While expressing its full readiness to cooperate with the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan, the Islamic State of Afghanistan reiterates the desire that the international community bring about circumstances under which an early, comprehensive and durable return of peace and stability to war-torn Afghanistan is ensured.

(Signed) A. R. GHAFOORZAI
Foreign Minister
Islamic State of Afghanistan